

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Until June 1953 the Research Institute for Navigation, Hydrology, and Soil Science (Forschungsanstalt fuer Schiffahrt, Gewaesser- und Bodenkunde) was one of the few institutes in the DDR where politics were unimportant. The SED had practically no influence on the work of the Research Institute. Until recently the Party organization at the Institute existed only on paper. The SED group itself was small, with only nine members, four of whom held jobs as night watchmen, gatemen, or similar positions. All were completely [REDACTED]. The SED secretary of the group and several other members had not paid membership fees for over two years and the Parteischuljahr had not been scheduled. No one from outside occupied himself with the political affairs of the Institute because the SED officials, including [REDACTED] Wollweber, had made a very bad showing in previous discussions with the scientific intelligentsia.

2. The situation changed suddenly on 1 July 1953. Several months before that date one of the employees, [REDACTED] fled to West Germany, taking with him several copies of classified material. After [REDACTED] had been recognized as a refugee he returned the material, with a letter, to Deputy Minister President Rau. After this incident Rau ordered a close scrutiny of the Research Institute.

3. The Personnel Director, Kotchate [REDACTED], who was an SED member but tolerant and well-liked, was replaced immediately by [REDACTED] Greta Fischer. As a personal friend of Wollweber she was feared by everyone. Several weeks later Posselt (fnu), Director of Administration, was arrested by the SED. The SED group secretary was also dismissed and threatened with arrest. Animosity towards [REDACTED] Fischer increased and morale at the Research Institute declined.

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